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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
MONGOLIA

IPF (1993-96) $6 331 000

(MON/93/005) - Water and Sanitation

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	12 May 1993
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	IBRD
Government implementing agency:	Mongolia Corporation for Communal Economy and Services (MCCES)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$100 000 Source of funds: IPF
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 48 000 Sources of funds: Australia
Total UNDP budget:	$148 000

Project background

Mongolia is a large but sparsely populated country with a land area of 1.5 million sq. km. and a population of 2.1 million. While the country's Northern Khangai Zone has abundant water resources, the Southern Gobi Zone is very dry with little precipitation. It is estimated that 20 percent of water sources in Gobi cannot be used because of low water table and increasing salinity.

The country has two main systems of water service, namely a "central" piped water system installed in key urban areas and open dug wells in the rural areas. There are over 100 "central" water systems with 700 water stations. The number of open dug wells which are dispersed throughout the country is not known. About 50 percent of the population, most of them in the rural areas, do not have access to safe water supply. In the urban areas, the quality of water supplied by the "central" system is generally poor with no testing and monitoring of water quality outside of the capital, Ulaanbaatar.

The Government's effort to improve the quality and availability of water supply is constrained by inadequate hydrological data, unavailability of appropriate technologies, lack of financing, and limited national capacity to plan, implement and manage a nationwide water supply and sanitation programme. To resolve these problems, the Government has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to build national capacity for expanding access to safe and affordable water supply and sanitation.

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

PUBLICATIONS

Project activities will focus on: (a) training in planning, technology choice and community involvement; and (b) health and hygiene education, mainly for women and children. The project will complement parallel assistance ($375,000) being provided by the Swedish Agency for International and Technical Cooperation (BITS) for the construction of demonstration wells and low-cost latrines; formulation of water quality standards and testing guidelines; demonstration of appropriate treatment facilities; and conduct of hydrological studies.

The joint objective of the proposed UNDP/AIDAB project and the BITS project is to enhance the capacity of sector agencies and communities in Mongolia to expand access of lower income segments of the population to safe and affordable water supply and sanitation, drawing upon the lessons learned and technologies developed during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade for enhancing sustainability. Both of these projects will be implemented as a single integrated programme under the technical supervision of UNDP/World Bank Regional Water and Sanitation Group for East Asia and the Pacific (RWSG-EAP) supported by UNDP regional and global programmes.

The two projects will concentrate initially in three selected demonstration areas in different regions of the country. There will be close coordination between construction activities of the BITS project, and the community development, institution-building and training activities under the UNDP/AIDAB project. Concurrently, workshops will be organized for policy makers and sector agency officials. TCDC will be arranged with neighbouring Asian countries, especially China, where UNDP/World Bank have a successful rural water supply and sanitation project under implementation in Inner Mongolia. It is anticipated that the two projects will build a sound foundation in Mongolia for follow-up large-scale water and sanitation investment programme in Mongolia.

Inputs

UNDP will provide two man-months of international consultants, one UNV who will act as project manager/coordinator, national consultants; training for national workshops; one vehicle and 30 hand pumps; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	88 200
Training	18 000
Equipment	24 000
Miscellaneous	13 000
Total	143 000

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